

**Benjamin H. Latrobe to Thomas Jefferson, May 25, 1808, with Drawing, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.**

**Latrobe to Jefferson THE PRESIDENT OF THE U STATES**

*Washington May 25th 1808*

*Sir,*

I herein enclose the strongest specimen of the plant which under the name of *Dryrot* commits such ravages upon the timber of buildings,—which I had ever met with. It was taken from the timber upon which the principal piers of the Senate chamber were built. The timber itself is reduced almost to powder, being more decayed than any other part of the work. We have now pulled them all down, & I hope to have them up again in a fortnight at most, & the Center of the Vault set. — Nothing is now more evident than that in two or three Years the Senate chamber would have fallen in. I have every reason to believe that the Presidents house is in the same state. I observe a crush of the plaistering even the Columns in the Hall which deserves examination in the situation marked A.

I am with high respect Yr faithy

B H Latrobe

[Ms., *Jefferson Papers*, Library of Congress.]